SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, September 21, 1995
Room BC-110, 10:30

Present: V. Baba, E. Besso, P. Bird, T. Bui (Chair), D. Gold, F. Haghighat, K. Lipke, E. Loo (recording secretary), D. Markiewicz, R. Storms, S. Suen

Regrets: J. Tomberlin, M. Vipond

Absent: B. Anderson

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SENATE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

SRC-09-21-95-A	Agenda for the SRC Meeting of September 21, 1995
SRC-04-20-95-M	Minutes of the SRC Meeting of April 20, 1995
SRC-09-21-95-D1	Revised Recommendations for the Report on Research Centres at Concordia University as approved by the ad hoc task force (July 27, 1995).
SRC-09-21-95-D2	Memo dated April 13, 1995 from Dr. P. Shizgal, Interim Director, CSBN to Mr. G. Milton, Director, Office of Institutional Planning and Research, re: University-approved research centres and academic planning.
SRC-09-21-95-D3	Mémo from Comité des secrétaire généraux of CREPUQ to Membres du Comité de la recherche, re: La rémunération des boursiers en recherche: état de la question produit par le Sous-comité des conseillers juridiques .
SRC-09-21-95-D4	Recommendations for a new Policy on Contract Research (March 1995)
SRC-09-21-95-D5	Policy on Indirect Costs recovery from Research Grants not accredited by SIRU.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. Chair welcomed the members to the first SRC meeting for the academic year 1995-1996.

1. Approval of Agenda (SRC-09-21-95-A)

The **Policy on Indirect Cost Recovery from Research Grants** was added to item 7, therefore item 7 **Revised Recommendations** became 7(b). The revised agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. Approval of Minutes from the meeting of April 20, 1995.

The Minutes for the April 20, meeting were approved.

3. Business arising from Minutes

There is only one item Policy on Indirect Cost Recovery from Research Grants which is item 7 of the Agenda.

4. Report of the Chair

Chair welcome old members back and new members on board. Chair noted that the Senate Research Committee has two members-at-large, and that the two members are: Dr. Dolores Pushkar Gold from Psychology and Dr. Mary Vipond from History, both have accepted. Chair thanked them for their consent. Dr. Vipond could not attend this meeting, since the decision was made only the day before.

There has been some very minor changes in the research portfolio in the Office of the Vice-Rector, Academic. Following the Chair's recommendation, Dr. Lightstone is now permanent member of the comité de la recherche of CREPUQ. The Chair will replace Dr. Lightstone whenever it is necessary. This is important because all the other members of CREPUQ are either Vice-Principals or Vice-Rectors.

On the Centre de Recherche en Informatique de Montréal (CRIM) front, we reclaimed our seat on the Board of Directors, Dr. Lightstone will be sitting on the Board of CRIM. Dr. Bui will be on the University Advisory Committee.

Our participation on the National Networks of Centres of Excellence has enlarged this year. Drs. T. Le Ngoc and J. Hayes, both of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department are now heads of one of the six components of the network on Telecommunications. Dr. G. Boyd is a member of the new network on TeleLearning. We continue to have members participating in other networks such as IRIS, MICRONET, and NEURONET. In general, the Chair thinks we are heading towards a slightly more exciting year with regard to research.

There is a new president at NSERC, Dr. Tom Brzustowski succeeds Dr. P. Morand whose term ended September 30. Dr. Brzustowski brings lifetime of experience in administration and engineering education and research.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

- New staff in ORS:
  - R. Mitchell who was grants coordinator of ORS has been promoted to Manager of Grants.
  - Rosa Cerone who was a staff of Faculty Personnel Office has joined ORS, she is the new grants coordinator.
  - S. Durham who was the incumbent earlier this summer is back as Manager of Industrial Liaison .

- In the month of August, R. Mitchell and E. Besso visited the granting agencies : SSHRC and NSERC and Fonds FCAR. At SSHRC, as of October 1, the program branch will be organised into sectorial units where each sector will treat all applications related to research grants, strategic grants or fellowship etc. There will be 6 work teams and they are particularly concerned about ensuring memory, continuity and similar approach to all applications of the same subject.

5. Report of the Director, Office of Research Services

- At NSERC, there is still a very strong concern regarding ethics and accountability, NSERC offers to participate in workshops given by University on this subject and invites high level involvement such as that of Rector or Vice-Rector.

- FCAR mentioned the intention to fund centres as a complement to support university.

- FCAR Nouveaux Chercheurs 1995 competition results: 50% success rate for Concordia, one of the highest.

- The Seagram Fund is holding a final competition this year with assured money. We are also embarking on an evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme.

  Chair mentioned that Dr. H. Coward, who was president of the Canadian Society of the Social Sciences, has accepted to be the external assessor for the programme. He will be paid by the Seagram Company through the University. ORS is contacting recipients of the Seagram funding for input to the evaluation process.

- E. Besso circulated the french version of the research brochure 'Horizons'.

6. Question Period

In answer to C. Suen's question, the envelope for the Seagram Fund is about $200,000 to $250,000. The University funds about 4 to 5 new teams for a two-year period.

V. Baba remarked that we should communicate to FCAR about the impact of the changes such as disallowing of certain infrastructure expenses, the introduction of the new electronic form template, etc. In order to run the program, we need the software (Jetform), an expense which is not allowed by FCAR. We have difficulty interpretating the new FCAR regulations such as the budget.

7a Policy on Indirect Costs recovery from Research Grants (SRC-09-21-95-D5)

This document was brought to the SRC last spring. The Conference des recteurs et des principaux des universités du Québec (CREPUQ) has unanimously adopted in April a policy on overhead charges for research grants not covered by the "Système d'information sur la recherche universitaire" (SIRU). Other universities in Québec have implemented this policy, at Concordia the date of implementation is October 1, 1995.

It was suggested that the list of accredited agencies to Système d'information sur la recherche universitaire (SIRU) be attached to the Policy.

7B Revised Recommendations for the Report on Research Centres at Concordia University as approved by the ad hoc task force (July 27, 1995) (SRC-09-21-95-D1)

In December 1994, the Chair developed a report on Research Centres at Concordia University, and submitted to the SRC and the interim Vice-Rector, Academic. In January, the interim Vice-Rector, Academic created a task force consisting of two Deans and two Centre Directors to formulate recommendations to address the issues raised in the report. The task force's recommendations are now with the SRC for input. Chair asked Dr. Gold a member of the task force to briefly review the document and to initiate the discussions. Dr. Gold gave the following overview: The task force met during the

second term and then they were joined by Dr. Lightstone when he was appointed Vice-Rector, Academic. The mandate of the task force was to work with what is perceived to be the lack of implicit, inconsistent administrative structure for research centres. P. Shizgal's memo also make a point that research centres were not included yet in the academic planning process despite the fact that they play an important role in research, graduate education and revenue generation. The objective of the task force is to make recommendations that will provide an appropriate niche that will allow consistent reporting and resource allocation for established and new emerging research centres.The task force recommended the establishment of a University Committee on Research Centres. The University Fund for Research Centres was a suggestion made by Dr. J. Lightstone and this will be to develop new money which will go toward the creation and maintenance of research centres.

Chair remarked that there will be a consulting process.

The following remarks and suggestions were made:

- We have to clearly articulate how the creation of a University Committee on Research Centres is going to address these concerns.

- In other universities, research centres are very important whereas at Concordia, research centres have been neglected. The infrastructure is rather weak, it is important that the University recognises the efforts done by the research centres.

- Statements about what is the value of having a research centre, what are the advantages, why there is a need to move to higher more significant level are needed.

- The membership of the University Committee on Research Centres should consist of a senior researcher who is not attached to a research centre at Concordia.

- With Dr. P. Shizghal's consent, his document on University-Recognized Research Centres and Academic Planning be integrated with the report of the Task Force.

- It would be worthwhile if a Director of a recognised centre sits at SCAPP so that there is a link.

It is agreed that the document will be revised and tabled at the next meeting.

8. For information

9. Varia

10. Adjournment

It was moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

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